



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 26-101

Title: Imminent Threat Declaration Related to Anticipated 2026 Glacial Lake Outburst
Flooding

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, under Article V(1)(a) of the Constitution, the governing body is empowered to enact and enforce laws and ordinances governing and regulating the territory of the Tribe and all persons and activities within the territory of the Tribe, including promoting the peace, health, and safety of the Tribe, its wildlife and natural resources and providing for the general welfare of the Tribe and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida provides government services, including emergency and disaster response, within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida's jurisdiction includes the geographic area in and around Juneau, Alaska a recognized community under the Tlingit & Haida Rules of Election and the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazards Mitigation Plan (MJHMP); and

WHEREAS, Suicide Basin (K'óox Kaadí Basin), which feeds the Mendenhall River (Woosh Il'óox'u Héen), is currently filling at an accelerated rate and has reached volume levels that, based on National Weather Service (NWS) hydrologic monitoring confirms that the current volume of water impounded in the Basin has reached Basin capacity and is nearing historic thresholds known to cause major flooding along the Mendenhall River; and



WHEREAS, the 2024 flood event caused widespread destruction to public infrastructure and private property, displaced residents, damaged vehicles, compromised subsistence resources, and increased the risk of hazardous material exposure; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 flood event reached a historic record crest of approximately 16.65 feet on the Mendenhall River, and although the event resulted in less property damage than experienced during the 2024 flood, it confirmed the ongoing and escalating threat posed by record-level basin releases and the need for sustained preparedness, mitigation, and investment to ensure that every available tool is in place before future floodwaters rise; and

WHEREAS, the NWS and the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center are actively issuing scenario-based flood forecasts indicating that a significant outburst from K'óox K̄aadí Basin is imminent, and in response, Tlingit & Haida has proactively initiated preparedness and public safety coordination measures in anticipation of potential overtopping of the Woosh Il'óox'u Héen; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida, in Unified Command with the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ), and the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeast Alaska (USCG) has activated under a Unified Command structure and implemented the Preparedness and Response Phase of its emergency operations plan, with collaborative actions guided by the FEMA-approved All Hazards Mitigation Plan and with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF), State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), and the American Red Cross, and other relevant community partners; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida, CBJ, and USCG operate under a standing Memorandum of Understanding supporting public safety coordination and joint response capabilities, including information sharing, resource mobilization, and joint planning; and

WHEREAS, the strength of this intergovernmental partnership positions both governments to take early, unified action prioritizing the protection of life, property, and culturally significant resources; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida is actively responding to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its Tribal citizens, employees, and neighboring general public within its jurisdiction including keeping those people apprised of the status of the glacial dam outburst flooding, communicating notices and evacuation recommendations as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, timely declaration of an imminent threat under this Unified Command structure enables Tlingit & Haida to ensure a coordinated and efficient response, document emergency costs, and access state and federal emergency assistance as authorized under the Stafford Act and other intergovernmental authorities; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida is actively working to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, employees, and the neighboring public through direct communication, evacuation planning, and public safety coordination related to the anticipated flooding event; and

WHEREAS, floodwaters extending beyond anticipated flood areas or exceeding current projections will surpass Tlingit & Haida's existing emergency response capacity and available resources, limiting the Tribe's ability to effectively respond to and recover from the event without additional intergovernmental assistance and resources; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida finds it necessary to formally declare a disaster due to the imminent threat of a 2026 glacial dam outburst flood, in order to facilitate an effective and coordinated response and ensure access to available state and federal disaster relief resources, as floodwaters extending beyond previously anticipated inundation areas will exceed Tlingit & Haida's capacity to respond effectively with existing resources; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida must secure and administer emergency and mitigation resources including potential funding through the State of Alaska and FEMA in support of preparedness, response, recovery, and risk reduction measures tied to the 2026 event;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby declares an *Imminent Threat of Disaster* in the community of Juneau, Alaska, related to the anticipated August 2026 Glacial Lake Outburst Flood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this declaration shall be effective retroactively to August 8, 2026, in recognition of the commencement of Tlingit & Haida's emergency preparedness and response activities associated with the imminent threat of the 2026 Glacial Lake Outburst Flood; and

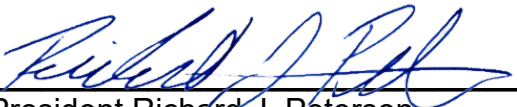
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida affirms activation of its emergency response protocols and directs Tribal resources and personnel to take necessary actions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, employees, and the broader community within its jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida authorizes its President or designee to negotiate, activate, and implement mutual aid agreements, memorandums of understanding, or cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local governments or other entities to support preparedness, response, and recovery related to the anticipated 2026 flood event; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida will seek and apply additional resources, as necessary, for prevention, emergency response, post-response recovery, and mitigation efforts resulting from the anticipated Glacial Lake Outburst Flood.

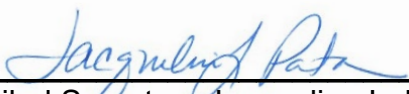
ADOPTED this 12th day of August 2026, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 absences.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata